

SECTION IV

BUSINESS DISTRICT PROFILES

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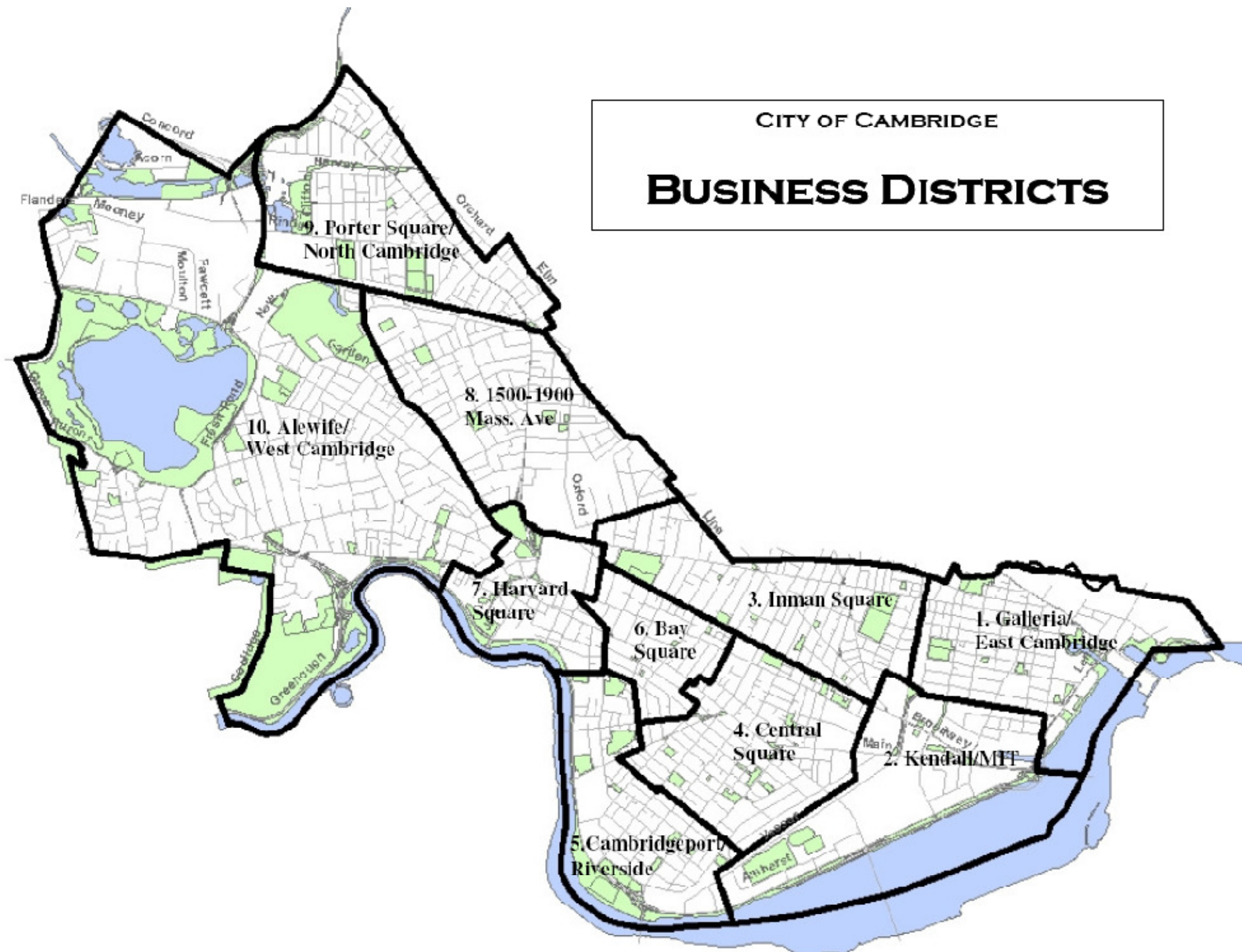


THE FOLLOWING IS AN OVERVIEW
OF SPECIFIC CRIMES FOR
CAMBRIDGE BUSINESS DISTRICTS



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

BUSINESS DISTRICTS



***Business Area # 1:
East Cambridge/Galleria***

Boundaries: bordered by Somerville, the Charles River, Binney Street, and the Conrail Railroad line

Major areas of Business/Retail/Industrial Concentration include: The Galleria, Restaurants and retail shops on First Street, restaurants and retail shops on Cambridge Street between #1 and #700, industrial and retail establishments on Bent, Binney, Hurley, and Thorndike Streets.



CambridgeSide Galleria

The major crime story to emerge in the East Cambridge/Galleria Business District in 2009 was the continued decline in **commercial burglaries**. At the beginning of the decade, the 200 to 700 blocks of Cambridge Street and large retailers on First Street were plagued with “smash and grab” burglaries. Utilizing target hardening techniques and coordinated patrol strategies to attack this long term trend has paid dividends. Commercial burglary has dropped from 21 incidents in the year 2000 to a historic low of only four incidents recorded in 2009. • **Larceny from buildings** recorded a 2% decline in this business district in 2009. Further analysis reveal that thefts of this type are waning dramatically when compared with the totals of over 100 incidents per year at the start of the decade. Larceny from building falls into four distinct scenarios in this business district: the theft of employee’s property at the rear of stores at the Mall; power tools stolen from construction sites; laptops taken from research firm offices; and the pilfering of cash and credit cards from lockers at health clubs. As with commercial burglary, target hardening and heightened crime prevention by local security staffs have been extremely effective in curtailing these incidents. • Contrary to the prediction of the Crime Analysis Unit that there would be a spike in **shoplifting** due to the downturn in the economy in 2009, this crime remained relatively unchanged from the previous year. Over 95% of all the shoplifting arrests in this business area occur at the Galleria Mall. Shoplifting activity at the Mall usually falls into two temporal patterns each year: weekday light-fingers work between the hours of 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., while weekend thieves prefer the early evening hours. • **Larceny from the person** fell 17% in Galleria / East Cambridge business district in 2009. Over 70% of this type of theft occurred at the Galleria Mall. In the majority of the incidents, wallets, purses, and cell phones were targeted from owners who were shopping or eating at the food court.

CRIME	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Larceny from Building	86	85	60	51	50
Larceny from Person	45	44	46	54	45
Commercial Burglary	15	30	26	12	4
Commercial Robbery	10	3	0	6	2
Shoplifting	134	103	121	167	165
Fraud/Flim	58	70	41	66	53
Flam/Counterfeiting					

Business Area # 2:
MIT/Kendall Square/Lower
Broadway

Boundaries: bordered by Binney Street, the Charles River, Amesbury Street, and the Conrail Railroad

Major areas of Business/Retail/Industrial Concentration include: Offices, shops, restaurants in Kendall Square, Cambridge Center, Offices and shops on Broadway between #1 and #200, Tech. Square, M.I.T., and the Hyatt Regency.



Kendall Square

Historically, **larceny from buildings** has been the predominant crime in the Kendall/MIT business area. This crime registered a 30% reduction in 2009 with the reported 23 incidents being the lowest total in this area in over twenty years. Increased internal security and employee awareness has had a major impact in curtailing this type of thievery. Forty percent of the larcenies from building for 2009 in Business District #2 involved the theft of personal property from hotel rooms. • After spiking to a seven-year high of 18 incidents in 2008, **larceny from the person** fell 56% in this business district during 2009. As in past years, diners at local coffee shops and food courts on weekdays during lunch time were the targets of the pickpockets. • **Shoplifting** has never been a problem in and around Kendall Square. Over the past five years, only 14 incidents of shoplifting have been reported in this area. • Kendall Square consistently has fewer **commercial burglaries** than the other business districts. Commercial burglary has been on a sharp decline in this area since 2006 when a series of construction site breaks were identified. Since an arrest curtailed that pattern, there have been only seven commercial breaks recorded over the past three years in this area. • In an average year, there are usually one or two bank robberies in the Kendall Square district. For the first time in recent memory, there were no **commercial robberies** reported in this area in all of 2009.

CRIME	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Larceny from Building	37	28	27	33	23
Larceny from Person	6	12	12	18	8
Commercial Burglary	8	13	2	3	2
Commercial Robbery	2	1	2	2	0
Shoplifting	4	3	2	3	2
Fraud/Flim	17	8	12	20	26
Flam/Counterfeiting					

***Business Area # 3:
Inman Square/Harrington***

Boundaries: by the Conrail Railroad, the Somerville line, Leonard Avenue, Cambridge Street, Dana Street, and Broadway

Major areas of Business/Retail/Industrial Concentration include: the offices, shops, restaurants of Inman Square, all business establishments between 700 and 1400 Cambridge Street, offices, industries and restaurants on Hampshire Street and between 100 to 380 Prospect Street and 100 to 300 Broadway.

***Inman Square***

Larceny from buildings decreased by 18 incidents in Business District #3 in 2009 when compared with last year's total. The majority of this decrease can be attributed to increased security and personal awareness in public buildings. Past trends of thieves targeting hospitals, schools, and city offices appear to be on the wane.

- The **shoplifting** totals (only two incidents in 2009) are inconsequential for the Inman Square business district.
- The increase in **larceny from persons** in restaurants and bars (pickpockets targeting diners) around Inman Square that was reported in 2007 and 2008 failed to rematerialize in 2009. Larcenies from the person dropped 44% when compared with the 2008 figure for this district.
- Late weekend night breaks along Hampshire and Cambridge Streets into restaurants and convenience stores helped to fuel a rise of five **commercial breaks** for Inman Square in 2009.
- There were three **commercial robberies** in Business District #3 in 2009, which represents a 50% decrease from last year. All three of the commercial robberies were by knifepoint at convenience stores. A team of robbers operating out of Somerville were charged with two of these incidents.
- The **fraudulent use of credit cards** and identity theft were on the demise for Inman Square in 2009. Fraudulent use of credit cards, the passing of counterfeit notes, and flim-flams dropped 31% in this business district in 2009.

CRIME	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Larceny from Building	30	29	20	31	13
Larceny from Person	15	24	25	27	15
Commercial Burglary	15	30	17	9	14
Commercial Robbery	19	3	5	6	3
Shoplifting	4	4	5	5	2
Fraud/Flim Flam/Counterfeiting	40	42	44	52	36

***Business Area #4:
Central Square***

Boundaries: the Conrail Railroad, Erie Street, Fairmont Street, River Street, Howard Street, Western Avenue, Pleasant Street, Green Street, Sellers Street, Bigelow Street, Doyle Way, Inman Street, and Broadway

Major areas of Business/Retail/Industrial Concentration include: shops, offices, restaurants between 200 and 830 Massachusetts Avenue, offices on Bishop Allen Drive, restaurants on Green Street, establishments between 770 and 910 Main Street, and City Hall

*Central Square*

Six of the seven **commercial robberies** in the Central Square business district in 2009 occurred between March and May. Four of these incidents were at convenience stores and were related to a pattern committed by a robbery duo from Somerville. Two banks in the 500 to 700 block of Mass Ave were hit by note-passers who were promptly arrested close to the scene of the crime. • There were three fewer **larcenies from the building** recorded in this area in 2009. This type of thievery is down over 30% in Business District #4 when compared with 2007. The majority of this decrease can be attributed to the decline in “back room” thefts of employee property. In this crime scenario, miscreants target the employee’s purse, cell phone, and other personal property from the storage area at the rear of the establishment. • **Larceny from the person** fell 7% in Central Square when compared with the 2008 figures. However, this target crime remains a primary concern in this area, ranking only behind Harvard Square as a dipper “hot spot.” Pickpockets target diners in cafes, restaurants, and coffee shops between 400 and 700 Mass Ave. Professional thieves prey upon female’s purses on backs of chairs during the afternoon, then turn their attention to coats, cell phones, and wallets in the bars late on weekend nights. • As in past years, a high percentage of the **shoplifting** in Central Square is at supermarkets and drug stores. • A pattern of late night **commercial breaks** along Prospect Street and the 600 block of Mass Ave in the first quarter of the year helped drive a 24% increase for this crime type in Central Square in 2009; this pattern resulted in an arrest in March.

CRIME	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Larceny from Building	87	72	100	72	69
Larceny from Person	98	102	89	98	91
Commercial Burglary	15	37	16	17	21
Commercial Robbery	14	4	4	3	7
Shoplifting	119	107	102	63	54
Fraud/Flim	79	79	75	74	70
Flam/Counterfeiting					

***Business Area #5:
Cambridgeport/Riverside***

Boundaries: bordered by the Charles River, Amesbury Street, the Conrail Railroad, Erie Street, Fairmont Street, River Street, Howard Street, Kinnaird Street, and Flagg Street.

Major areas of Business/Retail/Industrial Concentration include: all businesses between 550 and 900 Memorial Drive, all industrial, retail and restaurants on Brookline, Pearl, Magazine, River and Western to the south of Erie Street.



***Memorial Drive/Lower
Cambridgeport***

There are fewer business related target crimes recorded in the Cambridgeport/Riverside business district than in any of the other nine areas citywide. With only seven incidents reported, no solid patterns could be identified with **larcenies from buildings** in this area. The thefts were a combination of unattended purses stolen at bars and schools, items pilfered from store counters, and personal property snatched from hotel rooms. • **Larceny from the person** has never been identified as a serious crime problem in this business district. The majority of the eight recorded incidents involved a theft from a shopper's purse in a grocery store. The best temporal trend for these crimes is on weekdays between the hours of noon and 3:00 p.m. This type of criminal scenario has been on the increase in the Greater Boston region and bears watching in the future. • The first **commercial robbery** in nearly three years in Cambridgeport was registered in June of 2009 when a Memorial Drive gas station was robbed at gunpoint. There have been only three commercial robberies in this business district since 2005. • **Commercial burglary** is another business related crime that happens rather infrequently here. There was a lone commercial break in this business district in 2009. A Boston resident was arrested for attempting to break into the River Street Pizza parlor in December. • All 20 of the **shoplifting** arrests that were made in this area in 2009 occurred at either Microcenter, Trader Joe's, or Whole Foods.

CRIME	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Larceny from Building	26	14	14	18	7
Larceny from Person	7	10	10	14	8
Commercial Burglary	4	8	1	2	1
Commercial Robbery	5	2	0	0	1
Shoplifting	13	16	16	7	20
Fraud/Flim	25	32	20	27	34
Flam/Counterfeiting					

Business Area # 6:
Bay Square/Upper Broadway

Boundaries: bordered by Inman St., Doyle Way, Bigelow St., Sellers St., Green St., Pleasant St., Western Avenue, Howard St., Kinnaird St., Putnam Avenue, Massachusetts Avenue, Prescott St., Kirkland St., the Somerville Line, Leonard Avenue, Cambridge St., Dana St., and Broadway

Major area of Business/Retail/Industrial concentration include: all offices, restaurants and establishments between 830 and 1050 Massachusetts Avenue, all retail industrial and offices on Cambridge Street between Dana Street and Trowbridge Street and on Harvard Street and Broadway between Inman and Trowbridge.



Bay Square

Larceny from the building dropped 38% in Business District #6 when compared with the 2008 figures. There was a sharp decrease in thefts from offices in the 800 to 1000 blocks of Mass Ave. This larceny type accounts for the majority of the business related crime in the Bay Square/Upper Broadway area. Thefts of cell phones at CRLS from lockers and classrooms, though on the decline, still remain a problem. • There were no **shoplifting** incidents in the Bay Square district in 2009. Over the past four years, there have been only three arrests for shoplifting from the shops in this business district. • **Larceny from the person**, never a major problem for this business district, fell from twelve incidents in 2008 to nine in 2009. The majority of these thefts were by pickpockets targeting diners in the bars and restaurants along Mass Ave. • **Commercial burglary** increased from three incidents to six reported breaks in 2009. All six of the breaks were clustered between the 850 block of Mass Ave and the 1100 block on weekend nights. Three restaurants, a church, and a hair salon were among the businesses burglarized. • For the fourth consecutive year, one **commercial robbery** was recorded in Bay Square. *Servicepoint*, located at 1000 Mass Ave, was robbed at gunpoint in December of 2009. This case remains under investigation.

CRIME	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Larceny from Building	47	26	23	39	24
Larceny from Person	9	10	14	12	9
Commercial Burglary	16	6	6	3	6
Commercial Robbery	0	1	1	1	1
Shoplifting	4	1	1	1	0
Fraud/Flim	34	26	38	42	27
Flam/Counterfeiting					

***Business Area #7:
Harvard Square***

Boundaries: bordered by Prescott Street, Massachusetts Avenue, Putnam Avenue, Flagg Street, the Charles River, Ash Street, Mason Street, Garden Street, Waterhouse Street, Massachusetts Avenue, and Cambridge Street

Major areas of Business/Retail/Industrial concentration include: establishments and business offices on Massachusetts Avenue between 1050 and 1540, Mt. Auburn Street between 1 and 168, and the numerous restaurants, shops, and offices on Holyoke, Dunster, and Winthrop Streets, as well as, the Charles Square and University Place complexes.



Harvard Square

After recording an increase of 28 incidents, **larcenies from persons** is the major business related crime concern for Harvard Square. Despite the arrest of three career dippers during 2009, this crime still shot up 38%. Professional pickpockets tend to use public transportation and Harvard Square has been a hotspot for this activity. A dipper's favorite target is someone who is preoccupied, such as a person who leaves a purse unattended in a coffee shop, a tourist overloaded with packages, or someone totally engaged on their cell phone. A high percentage of these crimes in 2009 were on weekdays between 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. and on weekends between 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. • **Shoplifting** in Harvard Square decreased by 25% this year. The majority of the shoplifting arrests were on weekday afternoons at drug and department stores on Brattle Street and Mass Ave. • **Commercial robbery** dropped from four incidents in 2008 to one reported crime in 2009. A bank was held up by a note-passer in November. After registering 10 commercial robberies in 2007, this crime type has been on a steep decline in Business District #7.

CRIME	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Larceny from Building	78	43	63	67	41
Larceny from Person	113	89	73	74	102
Commercial Burglary	14	18	13	8	8
Commercial Robbery	4	0	10	4	1
Shoplifting	52	56	48	61	46
Fraud/Flim	37	28	34	38	33
Flam/Counterfeiting					

MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE

(1500-1900 block)

Business Area #8: **Massachusetts Avenue** **Corridor**

Boundaries: bordered by Kirkland Street, the Somerville Line, the B&M Railroad, Sherman Street, Garden Street, Waterhouse Street, Massachusetts Avenue, and Cambridge Street

Major areas of Business, Retail, and Industrial concentration include: retail shops, restaurants and offices between 1540 to 1880 Massachusetts Avenue, businesses and offices on Garden, Sherman and Oxford Streets.



1500-1900 Massachusetts Avenue

The majority of the 35% increase in **larceny from building** along the Mass Ave Corridor in 2009 can be traced to a series of thefts from locker rooms in local health clubs. Two arrests were made in this pattern with thieves targeting credit cards from wallets. There has been a number of professional theft rings involved in this crime type in Eastern Mass over the past two years. Thefts of cell phones from dormitories and classrooms at Lesley College appear to be on the wane. • The lone **commercial robbery** in Business District #8 in 2009 was a bank robbery in January. An arrest was subsequently made by the FBI for this crime. • For an area with such a high concentration of retail establishments and pedestrian activity, the total of only three **shoplifting** arrests over the past two years is an impressive statistic. • **Larceny from the person** patterns surface in this business area less frequently than in Harvard and Central Squares. The trend identified over the past two years is that 10 to 12 patrons in bars confined to the 1600 and 1700 blocks of Mass Ave will be the targets of pickpockets on weekend nights. • Despite the fact that **commercial burglaries** rose from five incidents in 2008 to nine in 2009, there were no temporal or spatial patterns identified in this business district. Three of the commercial breaks were in restaurants and three on the property of local colleges.

CRIME	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Larceny from Building	52	25	29	26	35
Larceny from Person	12	19	19	22	20
Commercial Burglary	16	8	15	5	9
Commercial Robbery	2	2	3	4	1
Shoplifting	3	7	5	2	1
Fraud/Flim	35	36	48	37	46
Flam/Counterfeiting					

***Business Area # 9:
Porter Square/ North
Cambridge***

Boundaries: bordered by the B&M Railroad, Alewife Brook Parkway, and the Somerville Line

Major areas of Business/Retail/Industrial concentrations include: all retail and commercial establishments between 1840 Massachusetts Avenue and the Arlington line, including Porter Square Mall. All commercial properties along Rindge and Sherman to the border of the RR tracks.



Porter Square

Shoplifting, which has never been identified as a problem in the Porter Square business area, shot up from 13 incidents in 2008 to 49 in 2009. Nearly 75% of these incidents were at CVS and Shaw's Supermarket. The temporal trend identified for the shoplifting incidents is on weekdays between 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. • **Commercial robberies** dropped from four incidents in 2008 to two robberies in 2009. A New Hampshire resident was arrested for robbing a Dudley Street convenience store in August and a Porter Square bank was victimized by a note-passer in November. • Four **commercial breaks** into area schools helped propel the total for this crime from seven incidents in 2008 to thirteen in 2009. There were three unrelated breaks in the 2300 to 2500 blocks of Mass Ave in December. Once the major crime problem for this business district, there has not been a significant commercial break pattern identified here in a number of years. • **Larcenies from persons**, never a major problem in this area, increased by two incidents in Business District #9 in 2009. An unusual pattern identified was the theft of wallets from browsers in local book stores. • **Larceny from the building** fell 44% in Porter Square in 2009. The majority of these thefts were of employees' personal property from the rear of retail establishments.

CRIME	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Larceny from Building	36	36	23	32	18
Larceny from Person	12	17	25	19	21
Commercial Burglary	16	24	16	7	13
Commercial Robbery	10	13	9	4	2
Shoplifting	31	21	32	13	49
Fraud/Flim Flam/Counterfeiting	35	40	35	42	41

***Business Area #10:
West Cambridge/Alewife***

Boundaries: bordered by the Charles River, the Watertown, Belmont, and Arlington Lines, Alewife Brook Parkway, the B&M Railroad, Sherman Street, Garden Street, Mason Street, and Ash Street

Major areas of Business/Retail/Industrial concentration include: businesses and offices on Mt. Auburn Street between 180 and 700 including the Shaw's Supermarket, the Fresh Pond Mall, industrial and research complexes on Smith, Fawcett, Mooney and Cambridge Park Drive, the Huron Village area, shops and restaurants on Concord and Garden Street.



Alewife/West Cambridge

Commercial robbery had become a concern in the Alewife/West Cambridge District and was averaging nine robberies per year since 2004. In 2009, there were only three commercial robberies in this district. The Bank of America was robbed by note-passers in April and May and a shoplifting at Radio Shack in December escalated into a robbery. • The crime numbers for **shoplifting** remain unchanged with 30 incidents reported in both 2008 and 2009. A previously identified trend involves a large percentage of Boston residents being arrested for shoplifting at the Fresh Pond Mall. These shoplifters tend to be older in age and more professional than arrestees in other business districts. • **Larcenies from buildings** decreased 15% in this business district when compared with the figures of 2008. The majority of these thefts are of laptops from local research companies and pilfering of personal property at health clubs, hotels, and schools. • There was a decrease of seven reports of **larceny from the person** in Business District #10 in 2009. The majority of the decline can be attributed to fewer thefts of wallets from the purses of distracted shoppers in supermarkets. • **Commercial burglary** registered a 57% decline in West Cambridge/Alewife in 2008 and fell two additional incidents in 2009. There has not been a commercial burglary pattern identified in this area since the smash-and-grab series that previously plagued businesses on Huron Ave in 2007.

CRIME	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Larceny from Building	60	40	59	48	41
Larceny from Person	25	12	31	19	12
Commercial Burglary	14	18	23	10	8
Commercial Robbery	7	11	7	6	3
Shoplifting	39	26	17	30	30
Fraud/Flim Flam/Counterfeiting	50	49	43	48	41

